

CLAIMS

1. A prosthesis structure (1) for anchorage to a joint end of an articulatory part (11) of a joint in a human or animal body comprising an engagement element  
5 (3) which presents a flat or substantially flat engagement surface (3b) for engaging with a complementary joint end surface (14) provided at said joint end and an elongate fixture (4) connected to and spaced from the engagement surface for insertion into a complementary bore (12) provided at said joint end at a distance from said joint end surface (14) characterised in that the elongate fixture (4) forms  
10 an acute angle ( $\beta$ ) with the engagement surface (3b).
2. A prosthesis structure as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said acute angle ( $\beta$ ) is greater than or equal to  $1^\circ$ .
- 15 3. A prosthesis structure as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that said acute angle ( $\beta$ ) is less than or equal to  $5^\circ$ .
4. A prosthesis structure as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that said acute angle ( $\beta$ ) is within the range of  $1^\circ$  to  $3^\circ$ .
- 20 5. A prosthesis structure as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the elongate fixture is a first elongate fixture (4) and that the structure (1) comprises one or more further corresponding elongate fixtures (5) extending generally in parallel with said first elongate fixture (4) for insertion into  
25 a corresponding number of further complementary bores (13) provided in said joint end at a distance from said joint end surface (14).
6. A prosthesis structure as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that an insertion end portion (4a) of the or each fixture (4, 5) is of a  
30 reduced cross-section.

7. A prosthesis structure as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that the or each insertion end portion (4a) is bevelled on a side facing the engagement surface (3b) for obtaining said reduced cross section.

5 8. A prosthesis structure as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that the or each insertion end portion (4a) is bevelled to such a degree that the side of the insertion end portion facing the engagement surface (3b) forms an angle ( $\delta$ ) with the corresponding side of the remaining portion (4b, 4c) of the fixture (4, 5) in the range of  $1^\circ$  to  $4^\circ$ .

10

9. A prosthesis structure as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that the angle ( $\delta$ ) between the bevelled side of the or each insertion end portion (4a) and the corresponding side of the remaining portion (4b, 4c) of the fixture (4, 5) is approximately  $2^\circ$ .

15

10. A prosthesis structure as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the engagement surface (3b) is provided with one or more bone tissue receiving cavities (6a, 6b, 7a, 7b) which are adapted to receive bone tissue of the joint end surface on anchorage of the prosthesis structure to the joint end.

20

11. A prosthesis structure as claimed in claim 10, characterised in that the or each bone tissue receiving cavity (6a, 6b, 7a, 7b) is in the form of a longitudinal groove formed in the engagement surface (3b) which extends generally in the direction of the or each fixture (4, 5).

25

12. A prosthesis structure as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the or each elongate fixture (4, 5) extends between opposed sides of the engagement element (3) at an inclined angle relative to the general direction in which the opposed sides extend.

30

13. A prosthesis structure as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the prosthesis structure (1) is an anchoring component part of a joint prosthesis assembly (2) for partial or total replacement of the joint end of the articulatory part (11) of the joint.

5

14. A prosthesis structure as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the prosthesis structure (1) is adapted for anchorage to the knee-joint end of one of the articulatory parts (11) of a human or animal knee-joint.

10

15. A prosthesis structure (1) for anchorage to a joint end of an articulatory part of a joint in a human or animal body substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying Figures of drawings.